United Nations S/2002/1243

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 November 2002

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus

(for the period from 30 May to 15 November 2002)

I. Introduction

1. The present report on the United Nations operation in Cyprus covers developments from 30 May to 15 November 2002 and brings up to date the record of activities of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) pursuant to Security Council resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964 and subsequent Security Council resolutions, most recently resolution 1416 (2002) of 13 June 2002.

II. Activities of the Force

A. Maintenance of the ceasefire and military status quo

2. The situation along the ceasefire lines was generally calm. There were, however, moments of tension, due mainly to the National Guard improving its defensive positions and living quarters along the ceasefire line. The Turkish forces made some improvements to their observation posts, including a position near Pyla, a mixed village in the buffer zone.

3. There were 37 recorded air violations during this reporting period: 8 by National Guard aircraft, 24 by Turkish military aircraft, 2 by a Greek Cypriot civilian light aircraft and 3 by civilian aircraft from the north.

4. Restrictions imposed on UNFICYP in July 2000 by the Turkish forces and the Turkish Cypriot authorities continued, including the violation of the military status quo in the village of Strovilia, where recently Turkish soldiers have begun to carry loaded firearms during patrols.

5. The restriction of movement along the Famagusta-Dherinia road, imposed on 1 November 2000, continued to prevent UNFICYP from monitoring the entire fenced-off area of Varosha. Observation by UNFICYP is limited to a northern sector of the fence line and those areas within Varosha that are visible from static observation posts and a short patrol route, which is well away from the perimeter fence. The United Nations holds the Government of Turkey responsible for maintaining the status quo in Varosha.

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6. Crossing of the maritime security lines — the seaward extension of the median line of the buffer zone, that vessels of either side are advised, for their own safety, not to cross, continued. The number of crossings of the western line by Turkish forces, usually on resupply runs to the Kokkina pocket, was higher than in the last reporting period. On the eastern line, near Famagusta, Greek Cypriot fishing boats and pleasure craft were responsible for the high number of crossings.

7. An exploratory mission of the Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations visited the island during the reporting period to advise UNFICYP regarding the Government's intention to clear minefields laid by the National Guard within the buffer zone.

B. Restoration of normal conditions and humanitarian functions

8. UNFICYP facilitated 28 events bringing together some 13,000 Greek and Turkish Cypriots in the buffer zone. The annual United Nations day celebrations in October drew a record crowd of 7,500. In September, 3,500 persons attended a youth festival organized by political parties from both sides. Other events included gatherings of politicians under the aegis of the Slovak Embassy, meetings between businessmen and representatives from the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Chambers of Commerce, and seminars for architects, engineers, paramedics, information technology experts, teachers and musicians. The Turkish Cypriot authorities denied permission for Turkish Cypriots to participate in some events.

9. UNFICYP continued to perform its mandated humanitarian tasks in support of the 426 Greek Cypriots and 160 Maronites living in the north of the island and the 486 Turkish Cypriots in the south who have made themselves known to the Force. UNFICYP facilitated the transfer of a 91-year-old Greek Cypriot woman living in the south back to her native village in the north. UNFICYP also facilitated the annual summer visit by Greek Cypriot children in the south to their families in the Karpas peninsula and a visit to Maronite villages in the north by Greek Cypriot men living in the south who are married to Maronites.

10. UNFICYP facilitated the return of a Greek Cypriot who had entered the north and was sent back by the Turkish Cypriot authorities via Turkey and Greece, instead of the crossing point in Nicosia, as had been the practice. In recent months, UNFICYP witnessed around 30 instances of non-Cypriots crossing the buffer zone into the south.

11. UNFICYP continued to support civilian activities in the buffer zone. With the cooperation of both sides, UNFICYP opened Dionysou Street in the old town of Nicosia for civilian use. UNFICYP facilitated a service for Latins and Maronites in the Latin Cemetery located in the buffer zone, adjacent to the United Nations Protected Area — the first such service to be held since 1974. UNFICYP further assisted in the desilting of the Marathassa dam, which now provides sufficient water to the north to double its water storage capacity. It also arranged the repair of an old irrigation aqueduct in the Avlona village, repair of the Liminitis water pipeline and resumption of the spring-water supply from Yerakies in the south to Lefka in the north.

12. Turkish Cypriot authorities informed UNFICYP that they would construct a new road linking the residents of Pyla in the buffer zone to Arsos, a village in the

north. The Turkish Cypriot inhabitants of Pyla currently use a shorter road that runs through the British Sovereign Base Area. UNFICYP declined to grant permission on security grounds. Turkish Cypriots staged a number of peaceful demonstrations in support of their demand. UNFICYP granted permission for Turkish Cypriots to sink a bore well on the plateau near Pyla to supply water to the adjoining village of Pergamos.

III. Missing persons

13. During the period under review, the two leaders, Glafkos Clerides and Rauf Denktash, continued to give particular attention to the problem of missing persons. In this respect, they held three separate meetings in July in the presence of the Chief of Mission. The First Assistant to the Third Member of the Committee on Missing Persons continued to work with the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot members to enable the Committee to resume its activities.

IV. Mission of good offices of the Secretary-General

14. I met the two leaders on two occasions, in September in Paris and in October in New York. I shared with them my growing concern that the talks were not producing the kind of progress that was needed if the opportunity at hand was to be seized. Direct talks were unfortunately interrupted by Mr. Denktash's surgery. On 11 November, after long and extensive preparations, I conveyed to the two leaders a document which, in my considered opinion, could provide a sound basis for agreement on a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem. I am awaiting the reaction of the parties, and hope it will be possible to bring the effort to a decisive conclusion in the coming weeks.

V. Organizational matters

15. As at October 2002, UNFICYP comprised 1,209 troops and 35 civilian police. The military personnel were from Argentina (383), Austria (7), Canada (1), Finland (3), Hungary (116), Ireland (6), Slovakia (278) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (415). The Argentine contingent included soldiers from Bolivia (2), Brazil (2), Chile (1), Paraguay (1), Peru (2) and Uruguay (3). The civilian police were provided by Australia (15) and Ireland (20). UNFICYP had 148 civilian staff, of whom 43 had been recruited internationally and 105 locally.

16. Alvaro de Soto continued as my Special Adviser on Cyprus, Zbigniew Wlosowicz as my Acting Special Representative and Chief of Mission and Lieutenant General Jin Ha Hwang as Force Commander.

VI. Financial aspects

17. By its resolution 56/502 of 27 June 2002, the General Assembly appropriated the amount of $45.6 million for the maintenance of UNFICYP for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003. This amount includes the voluntary contribution of one third of the cost of the Force, equivalent to $14.6 million, from the Government of

Cyprus and the voluntary contribution of $6.5 million from the Government of Greece.

18. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period of six months, the cost of maintaining the Force would be limited to the amount approved by the General Assembly.

19. As at 31 October 2002, unpaid assessments to the Special Account for UNFICYP for the period from 16 June 1993 to 15 December 2002 amounted to $17.6 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations amounted to $1,652.2 million as at the same date.

VII. Observations

20. The situation along the ceasefire lines has remained calm. However, restrictions imposed by the Turkish Cypriot authorities and the Turkish forces on the movements of UNFICYP remained in effect. There was no progress in restoring the status quo ante in Strovilia.

21. Despite the present calm on the island, I consider the presence of UNFICYP essential to the maintenance of the ceasefire between the two sides. I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Force for a further period of six months, until 15 June 2003.

22. In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation to Mr. de Soto, Mr. Wlosowicz, Lieutenant General Hwang and the men and women serving in UNFICYP for the efficiency and dedication with which they have discharged the responsibilities entrusted to them by the Security Council.

Map No. 2930 Rev. 52 UNITED NATIONS
November 2002

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Cartographic Section